YOU FOR YOUTH

Partnering With Families for Healthy Child Development
Training to Go

Session Goals

- Reflect on how programs can support healthy child and adolescent development in four areas.

- Learn strategies for collaborating and communicating with families.

- Consider families' roles in supporting the healthy development of students your program.

- Develop mission statements that reflect a commitment to partnering with families to support students' development.

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True or False?

- Your students have already experienced many environmental factors that are unknown to you.

- If a student seems anxious or withdrawn, it's safe to assume the student hasn't experienced a truly nurturing environment.

- Your program environment can influence students' development for years to come.

Areas of Child Development

Cognitive

Physical

Emotional

Social

Environment: Physical Development

Considerations

- Food and water
- Exercise
- Sleep
- Health care and self-care

Ways to Address in Program Environment

- Community food partners, water fountain
- Diverse equipment and adequate time
- A quiet, comfortable corner
- Connect with resources, restroom access, first aid, commitment to safety

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Considerations
- Thought processes
- Problem Solving
- Decision Making

Ways to Address in Program Environment
- Intentional space, materials, student grouping
- Model curiosity
- Exploration and open-ended questions
- Understanding: break it down, build it up, brainstorm
- Open discussions on varied topics for teens
- Academic supports

Considerations
- Forming secure relationships
- Recognizing, expressing and manage feelings
- Having empathy for the feelings of others
- Honoring other opinions when deciding or acting

Ways to Address Program Environment
- Show you're trustworthy and affectionate
- Design group activities thoughtfully
- Use books to promote positive interpersonal messages
- Honor all types of diversity
- Set limits and expectations

Families and Programs Want...

- Outcomes
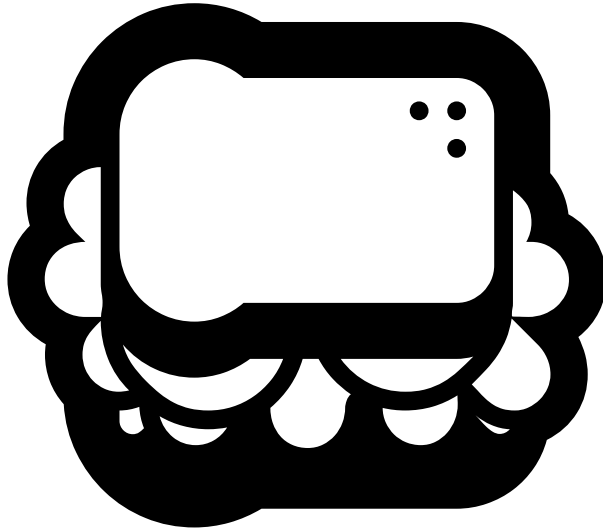- Opportunities
- Communication

To Build Positive Relationships...

- Greet families every day
- Get to know them
- Ask about their day or significant events
- Share something about their child each day
- Formalize conferences — share work samples, observations, goals, questions

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Feedback Sandwich

A Positive

A Concern

A Positive/Plan

Tough Conversations

- Keep it confidential.

- Read the room.

- Let your compassion be known.

- Follow up on the positives.

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Family Surveys

- Field trips

- Activities

- Health concerns

- Possible contribution
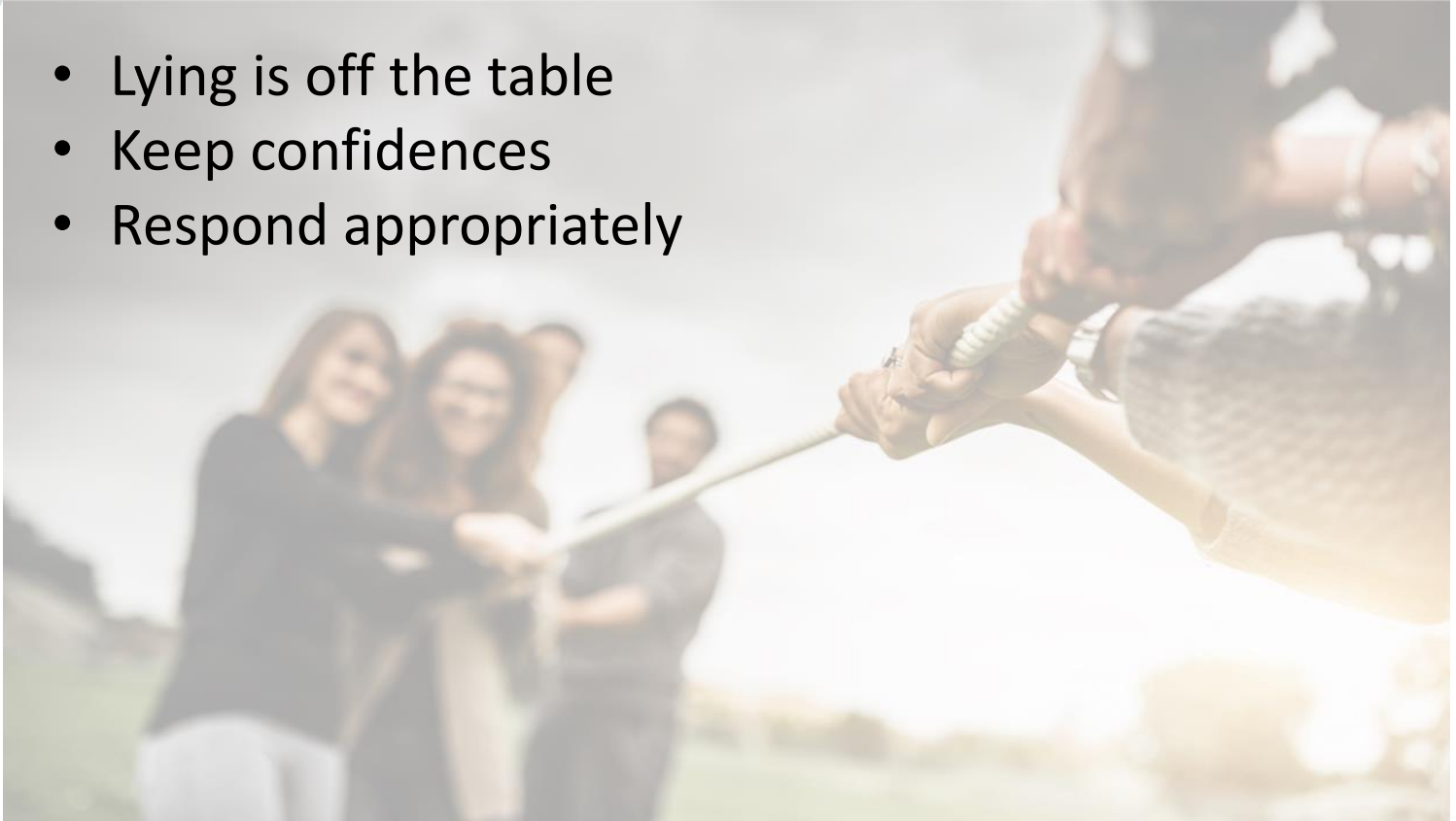
Families as Program Advisors

- Arts
- Career pathways
- Civics
- Equity
- Inclusion
- Literacy
- Project-based learning
- Sports
- STEM/STEAM

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Family Partnership: Teens

- Lying is off the table
- Keep confidences
- Respond appropriately

Scenario

You just moved up to the high school 21st CCLC program after working in the elementary school program for years. Lucinda, now 16, is excited to see you again, as is her mother. Lucinda tells you privately that her boyfriend is pressuring her to be more intimate. You encourage her not to do anything she's not sure about, and to talk with her mother about it. Three weeks later, Lucinda's mom emails you and asks if you know anything about the boyfriend. How do you respond?

Show families that you're committed to:

- Understanding development

- Watching for warning signs

- Working collaboratively

- Providing appropriate activities

- Ensuring a healthy environment

Your Take on the Mission

Kids don't come with owner's manuals. You have to figure each of them out, and by the time you do, they're gone.

Richard Paul Evans

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